How will I get the results of the newborn screen?

- Parents will be notified by your baby's doctor ***or*** a Newborn Screening Follow-Up team member if results show a possible problem.
- You will be advised on what needs to be done to help your baby. Some babies need additional testing immediately and some testing can wait a few days.
- You should also check with the doctor to make sure they have results of your baby's screen.

Why do babies need to be re-screened?

- In Maryland, two routine screens are performed to help identify a problem that might not show up on the 1st screen. The 2nd screen should be collected after the baby is 7 days old.
- Babies who were screened before they had enough to eat (eating well for at least 24 hours) must be re-screened ASAP.
- Some babies need to be re-screened if the previous screen shows a potential problem.
- Some babies need to be re-screened because the previous screen had too much or too little blood.

If your baby needs more testing, please get it done right away!

Will my baby have other screening tests in the hospital?

Your baby will also be screened for:

- hearing loss
- birth defects
- critical congenital heart disease

Questions?

- Ask your doctor or nurse if you have questions or concerns.
- Call the Newborn Screening Follow-Up Program at **443-681-3916**
- Visit our website: ***phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/genetics***

MARYLAND
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Office for Genetics and People with Special Health Care Needs

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Newborn Metabolic Screening — Your Baby's First Test.....

.....it is not just a "PKU" anymore!

Why do babies have Newborn Metabolic Screening?

- Some babies have rare problems that require treatment to stay healthy.
- Babies born in Maryland have had newborn metabolic screening since 1965.
- The first screen was for PKU (Phenylketonuria), which is why it is sometimes called the “PKU test”.
- Babies who are born with these diseases usually seem normal at birth.
- Most babies do not have a family history of these diseases.
- We test **all** babies to find the ones who may need treatment.
- If we find problems early, we can help prevent serious problems like mental retardation or even death.

What is included in Newborn Metabolic Screening?

Newborn Metabolic Screening includes over 50 possible conditions:

- The inability to break down the sugar in breast milk and most formulas
- The inability to break down certain proteins
- The inability to break down certain fats for energy
- The presence of abnormal hemoglobin or sickle cell disease
- Abnormal thyroid function
- Abnormal adrenal glands
- Cystic Fibrosis

Newborn Metabolic Screening saves lives..... one heel at a time!

How will my baby be tested?

- Before your baby is tested, a nurse or doctor at the hospital will answer any questions you may have about newborn metabolic screening.
- You have the right to refuse screening. Please think it over carefully. Your baby is depending on you!
- Before you leave the hospital, a few drops of blood will be taken from your baby’s heel and put on a special filter paper.
- The filter paper is sent to the Maryland State Newborn Screening Laboratory where the blood is screened for over 50 possible conditions.
- If your baby is not born in a hospital, talk to your baby’s doctor about newborn metabolic screening.